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Campers on the bus to Camp Wing, circa 1950.

## Camping at Wing Since 1937

By HOLLY CHARRON

Bunk beds, cabins, bug spray, swimming lessons, s'mores and counselors are just a few of the words that may evoke fond memories of your summer camp experience when you were a child. Right here on Keene Street in Duxbury, memories like these are still being made every summer by hundreds of children who attend Camp Wing and the Duxbury Stockade. Camp Wing is one of the three programs of Crossroads For Kids, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing summer camping to at-risk children in Massachusetts.

On June 27, 1937, Boys' Camps, Inc. opened the grounds of the Keene Estate as the home of Camp Wing and the summer camp to 55 boys from the Roxbury and Charlestown Boys' Clubs of Boston. The land was purchased by funds donated in memory of Daniel Wing, who was a member of the board of overseers of the Boys' Clubs of Boston for many years. In 1945, the name of the organization, Boy's Camp, Inc. was officially changed to Boys' and Girls' Camps, Inc. Today, Crossroads for Kids, Inc. continues the mission of its founders by delivering summer camping and year 'round programs that promote the emotional well being of children. while providing

stable and positive relationships in a diverse and natural setting. To help accomplish this mission, campers escape to the original sites alumni gathered years ago: Camp Wing, Camp Mitton in Brewster and Camp Lapham in Ashby.

Every summer, the largest of the three sites, Camp Wing, serves over 650 girls and boys ages 7-13 from socio-economic environments that put them at risk for developing violent behaviors and alcohol and drug use. The campers make up some of the most vulnerable populations of the community including foster children, the homeless, and children who have been abused or neglected. Camp Wing provides campers with a safe and stable environment, personal relationships with caring adults, as well as opportunities to experience success. A typical day consists of traditional camp activities such as instructional swimming, team sports, creative arts, and outdoor pursuits. Special community-based partnerships give the campers the opportunity to learn new skills and gain a strong sense of pride and accomplishment. The Duxbury Bay Maritime School exposes the children to sailing and nautical instruction while Wired Woods, an educational technology company, teaches campers how to communicate creatively with computers by building their own websites.

To learn more about your non-profit neighbor or volunteer opportunities please attend the Crossroads For Kids, Inc. informational meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Merry Meeting Room at the Duxbury Free Library. You can also find out more about Crossroads For Kids, Inc. by logging on to [www.crossroads4kids.org](http://www.crossroads4kids.org) or calling the main office at 781-834-2700.

*This is the first in a series of occasional articles about Camp Wing.*



**Recent campers ride the bus to the same destination.**